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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OUR 4-H CLUB WORK OFFERS RECREATIONAL ADVANTAGES TO US

A radio talk by Lyda Mae Barbee, 4-H club member, Wake County, North Carolina, delivered in the National 4-H Club Radio Program, May 4, 1935, and broadcast by a network of 59 associate NBC radio stations.

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I am to tell how 4-H club work offers recreational advantages to us. Last month I led recreation in my club. We played quiet games and active games, and did community singing. Everybody took part - old and young. To keep the older people from saying they could not play we started off with a game called "Birds have Feathers." When the players flew at the wrong time they had to pay a pawn, and to get their belongings, many stunts were done. Many of them were timid, but when they got into the spirit they enjoyed it.

We played other games as "Gossip," "Black Magic," and "Ford Car." We also had a spelling match between the night school students and the 4-H club members. Two long lists of words were called with each side trying to excel. The first list was won by the 4-H club members and the night school students won in the second. Before going outdoors we sang some of our spirituals - "Roll Jordan Roll," "My Lord is Writing All the Time," and "I Want to be Ready." The old folks and the young put their whole hearts into the singing for we can always have a good time singing spirituals. The 4-H club members sang "Old McDonald had a Farm."

Some of our outdoor games were "Three Deep," and "Potato Race." There was lots of fun playing these, for several times the older people beat us running.

I take part at the night school in our community by helping with the singing. Since I have been a 4-H club member I have taken a course in singing and received a certificate. I am the leader of the junior choir in my church, and teacher of the fourth class in Sunday School.

We enjoy our club work and it seems like play when we come together for our home-making and farming projects. We try to give a part of every club meeting to play and games. Everyone of the fourteen 4-H clubs in Wake County, where I live, do the same thing and last year the membership of 300 boys and girls held what we call a Round-up Day at Pullen Park in Raleigh, the capital of the State. It was the largest crowd we ever had. Besides the boys and girls there were parents and other grown folks as well. A truck load of parents and club members went from my community. I enjoyed the day for I met many boys and girls of other clubs and learned something about what they are doing. The big county meeting in Raleigh showed us all what club work could do for our pleasure and we had more coming to club meetings than ever before, thereafter. Some of them became better club members and all of us are planning more community-get-togethers for fun. I will never forget the camp we had in Johnston County in '33. Seventy-five boys and girls went from Wake County and lived three days of camp life. We cooked our own meals. The boys helping with the cleaning. Each girl and boy took

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ham or bacon and eggs from home. Irish potatoes, bread and weiners were bought and we were always hungry enough to clear our plates. We were not near a beach, but we spent our last day at Holts' Lake swimming and boat riding. We did not have to cook our meals that day for the people of Johnston County brought full baskets and we had a real picnic.

Last summer a member from my club and I went to the State 4-H Short Course at A. and T. College in Greensboro, North Carolina. Four days were spent there. I did not know that I could have such a good time. Each day was filled with enjoyment and fun. Twenty 4-H club members went from our county and I was elected leader of our group. I have enjoyed every one of my seven years in 4-H club work and think that it has many advantages for a girl or boy.

I am entering high school next year and I believe that I will be better fitted to do my work there because of what I have learned in club work. Of course I haven't much money to pay my way, but I am going to plant a plot of sweet potatoes as my project this year, hoping to have them accepted as part payment on my board.

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